



SAN BRUNO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

August 19, 2009

Chair Pierce called the regularly scheduled meeting of the San Bruno Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 19, 2009.

Commissioner Zamattia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT AT MEETING – Commissioners: Davis, Vice-Chair Greenberg, Marshall, Nigel, Chair Pierce, and Zamattia. Excused: Commissioners Bower, Lara. Absent: Commissioner Stanton. Staff: Schwartz and Brewer Public: 7 members of the public were in attendance.

MINUTES: MSC Zamattia/Davis to approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting.

Special Recognition: Recreation Services Supervisor Tucker introduced the pool staff who were in attendance. **Supervisor Tucker** shared information regarding the ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) Swim Pool Audit that was performed by an outside contractor this past July. The audit was accompanied by a thirty-minute video that observed the staff guarding the pool perfectly. The written audit was distributed to the Commission for their review and questions. **Supervisor Tucker** also recognized **Pool Manager Loren Tordson** and **Lifeguard Brittany Cardoza** for their performance during a significant rescue this summer. **Commissioner Pierce** congratulated the staff and thanked both them and their parents. Commissioner Davis noted that the Recreation staff this summer has been great. Commissioner Nigel commended Supervisor Tucker on the 50th Anniversary and the success at the pool. Community Member Sharon Baum noted that she noticed that the part time staff is put through a very extensive training and much of the success is because of that training.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Athletic Field Committee

Director Schwartz reviewed the report on the athletic field options. The Commissioners discussed the options of utilizing Lions Field as a multi-use field, including the potential to use the field year round by installing synthetic turf. **Vice Chair Greenberg** asked if baseball would still have priority. **Director Schwartz** said it would depend on the season. **Chair Pierce** asked if the costs noted in the report included all the improvements to the fields. **Director Schwartz** said it did not include all the improvements already planned and were rough estimates. The costs would be better established if the City Council chose to move forward with one of the options. **Commissioner Marshall** asked if the option that included part of the Belle Air field would need to be approved by the San Bruno Park School District. **Director Schwartz** noted there would be discussions with the school board if the City Council chose that option as a priority. **Commissioner Nigel** asked where the property line is. **Director Schwartz** said he believed the property line was just beyond the right field fence of Lions Field.

Director Schwartz noted one of the advantages of synthetic grass was the reduced maintenance. Though not a true monetary savings, it would allow maintenance workers from that field to be reassigned to other areas of the city.

Commissioner Davis noted this is a big decision and she strongly urged staff and the Commission to have a meeting with the field user group before making any decisions. **Chair Pierce** asked that the Athletic Field Committee would meet with the Field User Group to discuss the options with them.

Commissioner Nigel asked if we would be working with the School District and if they might assist in the funding. **Director Schwartz** said we would wait until we knew what direction the committee was headed first. He noted that the Commission would first need to recommend to the City Council what option the Commission would like to explore first and make sure everyone was moving in the right direction.

Community member **Jim Thiel** representing Pony and Bronco baseball noted that the league has lost one team over the past few years but expected to recoup that team in the next few years. He also stated that Pony and Bronco were the only leagues using Carl Sandberg at the time it was sold and there has been no replacement field. He said that at one time the Commission and staff were looking into building an additional field at Pacific Heights and that field never happened. There are very few places for the teams to practice. They are unable to practice on Lions and Belle Air until the rainy season is over due to the fields being so wet.

Vice Chair Greenberg asked how many times per week the teams practice. **Mr. Theil** said it depended on the coach but usually two or three times per week. The Commissioners also pointed out that Pacific Heights fields are also scheduled four days per week for Pony and Bronco use and they practice at Crestmoor High School fields five days a week also. **Chair Pierce** noted that in these economic times, the Commission is looking to make a good choice and get the most for the money on the fields and the improvements being made. He also asked Director Schwartz to let him know what the cost per square footage is for the synthetic grass. **Commissioner Nigel** assured Mr. Theil that the Commission has spent a lot of time touring the fields to be sure they are making the right decision. **Mr. Theil** thanked the Commission for their time.

2. Catalpa Lot

Director Schwartz gave an overview of the report. He noted that after the July meeting, staff contacted a company to get information on what types of structures would fit at Catalpa. The report had examples of some equipment and a preliminary layout of the park with the equipment. **Director Schwartz** noted that these were just ideas and a preliminary plan would be made if Council approved the project and that the neighbors would be involved in the development of the site. He also noted that staff would recommend bucket swings be installed to make them less attractive to teens visiting the park after hours. Staff would work with the vendors and get three different proposals. **Chair Pierce** asked if staff could install the equipment to save money. **Director Schwartz** said it is better to contract the work as the liability of the installation is transferred to the company. Community member **Sharon Baum** agreed that bucket swings be used and asked if we would be using the swings that are in storage. **Director Schwartz** said yes we would. **Commissioner Zamattia** said she would like to see a proposal made to council to move forward with the project. **M/S Davis/Zamattia** **The Commission recommend to City Council to allocate up to \$100,000 to return the play equipment to Catalpa Park and repave the basketball court. Pass unanimously.**

3. **Dog Park Committee**

After the report was reviewed by the Commission, **Chair Pierce** asked if staff had moved forward on the lights at the Commodore Dog Park. **Director Schwartz** said staff is looking into a funding source for the lights. **Commissioner Davis** felt that the options in the report for Commodore Dog Park do not add much usable space. **Chair Pierce** agreed that the amount of space added was not cost effective.

Vice Chair Greenberg asked if Monte Verde or Pacific Heights was being recommended as an off leash trial area. **Director Schwartz** stated that the report displays options at each of the parks that the Commission discussed in July, that the Commission has not yet voted to recommend any of the facilities and also noted that staff does not recommend unfenced areas for dogs to be off leash at mixed use facilities. **Vice Chair Greenberg** asked if the off leash trial period would need fencing or would it happen without fencing at the parks. **Vice Chair Pierce** noted the community group asked for a trial period without fences and with a water faucet and bags. **Commissioners Davis and Marshall** noted that water and bags were not necessary for the trial period. **Commissioner Nigel** said he was torn with the decision because at the Sandberg Dog Park people were responsible for a while, but then stopped attending to the park and its condition deteriorated. He also said he did not want to bring his grandchildren to a park where people did not pick up after their dogs. He mentioned also that some irresponsible dog owners may bring dogs with diseases, such as Parvo, that could be passed to other dogs.

Commissioner Zamattia did not like the idea of fences at Grundy as it would ruin the beauty of the park. **Commissioner Marshall** asked if the playgrounds could be fenced instead. **Commissioner Nigel** noted that the survey of professionals said the mixed use does not work and we should listen to that information. **Chair Pierce** pointed out that staff gave several recommendations to accommodate dog owners without impacting the community. He felt the Dog Park Committee should work with the users to find the best recommendation. **Vice Chair Greenberg** noted she realized the liability but wanted the trial period anyway. She also asked if we were looking at one or three trial sites. **Commissioner Marshall** said we are looking at three sites.

Community member **Janice Rumbaugh** noted she lives nearby Grundy Park and wants a location that she could walk her dog to and not get into a car. She also said to get to the Commodore Dog Park she needs to cross San Bruno Avenue and she feels that is a dangerous place to cross. She noted she is tired of feeling like a criminal when she goes to Grundy Park and she pays taxes.

Director Schwartz reminded the Commission that the report only outlines some of the options for the locations requested by the Commission and that there are pros and cons at all sites. He noted that the City cannot install a dog park within three blocks of every residence in the City and the dog group representatives that spoke at previous meetings said they are willing to drive to sites within the City. **Chair Pierce** said that the cost of fencing made it difficult for him to make a recommendation for a three month trial at Grundy Park. **Vice Chair Greenberg** noted the Commission mentioned other parks but Grundy is what the community group wanted and that's where the trial should be. **Commissioner Marshall** noted he did not want to go against staff recommendation but would like to see a trial unless there was a legitimate liability reason. **Chair Pierce** said Grundy Park may not be a good long-term solution and Commission should be open to other possible locations for a trial while looking for a long-term solution. He also reminded Commission that the community group would help self manage the dog park.

Chair Pierce noted that Monte Verde is used in the fall and spring for practices only.

Commissioner Davis asked if there were other cities that had off leash non-fenced multi use facilities. **Director Schwartz** said yes there are locations that have certain hours for dogs off leash but only in areas that are not used for sporting activities or are near playgrounds.

M/S Davis/Greenberg recommends staff recommend to the City Council to provide Monte Verde Park from 6:00 to 8:00am and 5:00 to 7:00pm, Forest Lane Park all day and Grundy Park from 6:00 to 8:00am only as off-leash dog parks when no permitted sports groups are using the park for a three month trial period. Chair Pierce requested each park be discussed individually. After a brief discussion on Monte Verde, the vote Passed Unanimously. With no discussion on Forest Lane, the vote Passed Unanimously.

Discussion on Grundy Park: **Commissioner Nigel** asked if the Commission could postpone the Grundy trial to explain the decision to the neighbors. **Commissioner Davis** said she felt the Commission should listen to the survey taken from the other cities and not mix dogs off-leash with groups using the athletic field, playground or picnic area. **Commissioner Nigel** noted he wanted to allow the evening hours but was worried because staff didn't support the evening hours. **Director Schwartz** reminded the Commission they could go to Council with a different recommendation than staff. **Commissioner Marshall** thought that morning hours off-leash and the afternoon hours on-leash may be a good compromise. The motion failed with 1 to 5 vote. A second motion was made. **M/S Nigel/Marshall recommendation to the City Council to allow dogs to be off-leash in Grundy Park from 6:00-10:00 am and on-leash from 5:00-7:00 pm when no permitted sports groups are using the park for a three month trial period. Motion Passed with 3 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention.**

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Katie Beltrano, a long-time San Bruno resident and past Commissioner, introduced herself on behalf of the National Park Service. She said if there is anyway they can assist to contact her. Katie is stationed at Park Headquarters at Fort Mason in San Francisco.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS:

1. **Staff Reports: None.**

2. **Commissioners Reports:**

A. **Commissioner Greenberg** said she has been seeing cars drive on the field at Commodore Park. She asked if fencing like that at Grundy could be installed to keep people from driving onto Commodore. Staff asked her to call the Police if similar events happen in the future.

She also mentioned that Parkside might be adding portables on the athletic fields when they begin to expand the schools for 6th graders, but that, at this time, the School Board members are not in favor of placing the portables on the field.

B. **Chair Pierce** noted that Tom Lara is still in the hospital. He is in room 2438 if anyone would like to visit him.

He also told staff that the report was very well laid out and assisted in the preparation for the meeting. He asked if an email could follow the agenda packet to confirm that all Commissioners receive the packet.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to be conducted, **Chair Pierce** adjourned the meeting at 8:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Brewer
Recreation Services Manager